

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 have been cancelled and replaced by new claims 21-37. The new claims have been written to overcome the Section 112 rejections and the Section 102 rejections.

New claim 21

The invention according to claim 21 relates to an arrangement for the detachable connection of a wiper blade on a swivelable wiper arm of a wiper arrangement for windows of motor vehicles, with a bushing that can be connected to the wiper blade or arranged on it for accommodating a plug-in axis of the wiper arm and with a device to lock the plug-in axis in the bushing at least in an operating position of the wiper blade, in which the directions of the longitudinal extension of the wiper blade and the wiper arm are aligned approximately parallel to one another.

The device for locking includes a catch hook arranged on the wiper blade, which in the operating position partially grips around the wiper arm near the plug-in axis and forms an angular limit stop for the wiper blade.

Roodt discloses an arrangement for the detachable connection of a wiper blade on a swivelable wiper arm. This arrangement also includes a catch hook (12) which forms an angular limit stop for the wiper blade. But in contrast to the invention according to claim 21, the catch hook is arranged on the wiper arm instead of the wiper blade, such that in the operating position the catch hook partially grips around the wiper blade thereby forming the angular limit stop for the wiper blade.

Therefore, claim 21 defines over Roodt. Moreover, none of the further cited prior art references show or suggest an arrangement of the catch hook on the wiper blade. In contrast to the prior art, the wiper arm of claim 21 can be manufactured with less complexity and less expensively than wiper arms of the cited prior art, whereby the arrangement of the catch hook on the wiper blade can be realized in a particular simple way. In particular, the coupling element according to figure 1, which comprises the catch hook as well as the bushing, can be manufactured as a simple stamped and bent sheet metal part.

Therefore, claim 21 is allowable. Claims 22, 26-28, 32 and 36 depend from claim 21 and are also allowable.

New claim 23

New claim 23 specifies that the free end of the wiper arm continues into the catch hook. Support for this feature can be found in figures 10 to 13 as well as in the corresponding description on page 2, par. 0006.

Claim 23 specifies an apparatus for a detachable connection of a wiper blade on a swivelable wiper arm, whereby the catch hook is arranged on the wiper arm and the free end of the wiper arm continues into the catch hook. The catch hook is therefore aligned in the direction of the wiper arm instead of being perpendicular to the wiper arm as disclosed in the prior art.

None of the cited prior art documents disclose or suggest a locking device according to new claim 23.

Therefore, new claim 23 is allowable. Claims 29 and 33 depend from claim 23 and are also allowable.

New claim 24

The invention according to new claim 24 is characterized in that the locking device includes a locking pin arranged near and parallel to the plug-in axis, which locking pin in the operating position engages in a trough-shaped receptacle of a coupling element of the wiper blade and blocks to a large extent an axial movement of the plug-in axis in the bushing and forms an angular limit stop for the wiper blade.

The construction of claim 24 therefore differs from that of claim 23 in that instead of a catch hook the locking pin is provided.

None of the cited prior art documents disclose or suggest the use of a locking pin instead of a catch hook. The Examiner apparently believes that the bow/ heel (44) of De Block is a locking pin. But De Block discloses neither a catch hook nor a locking pin.

The locking pin leads to the advantage that the arrangement can be manufactured with less complexity and less expensively than an arrangement with a catch hook. The locking pin can easily be manufactured separately and attached to the wiper arm. The engagement of the locking pin in the trough-shaped receptacle of the coupling element in the operating position guarantees a high stability and strength of the arrangement.

Therefore, claim 24 is allowable. Claims 25, 30, 31, 34 and 35 depend from claim 24 and are also allowable.

New claim 37

New claim 37 specifies a bushing that can be connected to the wiper blade or arranged on it for accommodating in a lockable manner a plug-in axis that can be connected to the wiper arm, whereby the plug-in axis is arranged on a second coupling element that can be slid over a free end of the wiper arm and can be locked therewith.

Thus a second coupling element is provided, which is connected to the free end of the wiper arm as well as to the wiper blade. The connection with the wiper arm is realized through sliding and locking and the connection with the wiper blade by using the plug-in axis.

De Block discloses in figures 7 and 8 a coupling element (14) which can be slid onto a wiper arm (12), whereby a plug-in axis (36) is arranged on the element (14).

Claim 37 includes the features shown in figure 18, 19 and 21, described in paragraph 0022 of the specification regarding the second coupling element featuring a spring clip, which has a locking tooth in its inner side pointing to the wiper arm which in the position that is slid on the wiper arm engages in a recess in the free end of the wiper arm, and an unlocking handle for manually unlocking the locking tooth.

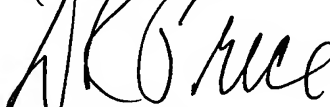
These features of claim 37 are not disclosed or suggested by any of the cited prior art documents. The claimed mechanism for the detachable locking of a second coupling element with the wiper arm allows a very easy connecting and disconnecting of the arrangement.

Therefore, new claim 37 is allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of the above amendment and allowance of claims 21-37 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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